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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

STAT
Proposal for a Meeting with Mr. Vincent Melzac

DDA Registry

File meetingsFROM:
STAT Chairman, Fine Arts Commission

EXTENSION

NO.

DATE

10 October 1979

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

OFFICER'S
INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1. DDA

10/21

Re

Excellent idea!

2. DDCI

3. DCI

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610 USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS

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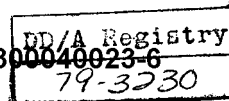
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79-3230



10 OCT 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

THROUGH : Deputy Director for Administration

FROM :
Chairman, Fine Arts Commission

SUBJECT : Proposal for a Meeting with Mr. Vincent Melzac

1. This memorandum proposes a meeting between you and Mr. Vincent Melzac to express the Agency's appreciation for Mr. Melzac's generous loan of several valuable paintings on display at Headquarters.

2. Several years ago one of my predecessors as Chairman of the CIA Fine Arts Commission made arrangements with Mr. Melzac to have several paintings from his collection displayed in the main corridors of the first floor at Headquarters. Mr. Melzac is a serious and respected collector of art, specializing in the so-called Washington Color School--abstract paintings by Washington artists, such as Gene Davis and Thomas Downing, circa 1950-1965, that are now quite famous and valuable. We currently have 21 paintings from Mr. Melzac's collection, valued (for insurance purposes) at \$400,000.

3. Our relationship with Mr. Melzac has been of considerable benefit to the Agency and I believe it is in our best interest to keep his goodwill. Although some employees might quarrel with the artistic worth of some of the paintings of dots, stripes, and the like, most would agree that these large, bright, colorful paintings add a zestful touch to the building that would be difficult to achieve in any other way. Our costs are limited to insurance coverage and preparing the paintings for hanging.

4. The Agency has expressed its appreciation to Mr. Melzac in several ways, including thanks by senior officials on two previous occasions. Your personal involvement could be very beneficial now because our relationship with Mr. Melzac might undergo a significant change soon. Recent conversations with him lead me to believe that he might offer the Agency a gift of several of his paintings as a part of his effort to get his considerable estate in order. He is in his early seventies (but looks ten years younger). I have already asked OGC about the legal aspects of a possible gift, and there will be many details to work out. But a session with you soon might accelerate the process by bringing Mr. Melzac's hints to me out in the open so we can deal with his ideas more directly.

5. There are several options (most desirable first):

a. A DCI-hosted luncheon here for Mr. Melzac with Mrs. Turner, Mrs. Melzac, the DDA, myself, and a few others attending. I think you and Mrs. Turner would find him a fascinating luncheon guest.

b. A DDCI-hosted luncheon, similar to the above.

c. A short meeting with Mr. Melzac in your office, followed by a tour of the paintings on the first floor. Mr. Wortman and I could accompany you.

d. A DCI letter of appreciation to Mr. Melzac, citing his generosity and expressing the hope that the relationship will continue indefinitely. I would draft this letter.

Additional background material will be provided, appropriate to the approach you prefer.



STAT

cc: C/LSD/OL